

The History of Tiger II Tank

Chapter 1: The Genesis (1937)

The development of the Tiger II, also known as the King Tiger or Bengal Tiger (Königstiger), started in 1937 with a request for a new tank design. It was a concerted effort to design a bigger and better tank capable of meeting the needs of the German Army in the short- to medium-term future.

Chapter 2: The Design and Production (1943 - 1945)

The Tiger II was designed by Henschel & Son (hull) and Krupp (turret) in 1943. It was the successor to the Tiger I, combining the latter's thick armor with the armor sloping used on the Panther medium tank. The tank weighed almost 70 tonnes, and was protected by 100 to 185 mm (3.9 to 7.3 in) of armor to the front. It was armed with the long barrelled (71 calibres) 8.8 cm KwK 43 anti-tank cannon. The Tiger II was produced from 1944 to 1945, with a total of 492 units built.

Chapter 3: The Operational History (1944 - 1945)

The Tiger II was first used in combat by the 503rd Heavy Panzer Battalion during the Allied invasion of Normandy on 11 July 1944. On the Eastern Front, the first unit to be outfitted with the Tiger II was the 501st Heavy Panzer Battalion, which by 1 September 1944 listed 25 Tiger IIs operational.

Chapter 4: The Legacy

Despite its formidable gun and heavy armor, the Tiger II proved to be a burden on the overstretched German armaments production system and on the military logistics required to support it. More Tiger II's were destroyed by their own crews than by the Allies. However, when operational for combat, it provided good service for the German Army and proved to be a formidable opponent.

This is a brief overview of the history of the Tiger II tank. Each chapter in this book would delve deeper into these events, providing a comprehensive look

at the development, production, operational history, and legacy of this iconic tank.

Source:

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- (3) Tiger II - Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiger_II.
- (4) The Tiger II: Germany's Most Magical Tank Of World War 2.
<https://wartankers.com/tiger-ii-2/>.
- (5) Tiger II (King Tiger) Main battle tank (MBT) - HistoryOfWar.org.
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